THE WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT

Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes.
Edited by SYLVIA PANKHURST.

VOL. II.—No. 13. SATURDAY, JUNE 12TH, 1915. PRICE ONE HALFPENNY.

All donations in money or kind should be addressed to the Financial Secretary of the E.L.F.S.:—
Miss N. L. Smyth,
400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS.

Sunday, June 13th, 3 p.m.—Victoria Park—Mr. Mackinlay. Chair: Mrs. Bouvier.
8 p.m.—Women's Hall, Bow—Mrs. Davies Miss Frazer Smith. Chair: Mrs. Walker.
8 p.m. — Poplar Women's Hall — Mrs. Bouvier, Mrs. Cyon. Chair: Mrs. Drake.
Monday, June 14th, 8 p.m.—Lesbia Road—Mrs. Walker.
8 p.m.—"Peacock"—Miss Lynch. Chair: Miss Manicom.
8 p.m.—Sturry St.—Mrs. Bouvier.
Tuesday, June 15th, 3 p.m.—175 Dalston Lane Mrs. E. Duval Chair: Miss Manicom.
3 p.m.—Bow Women's Hall—Miss Sylvia Pankhurst.
8 p.m.—Salmons Lane—Mrs. Walker.
Wednesday, June 16th, 8 p.m.—Poplar, Chrisp Street—Miss Feek. Chair: Mrs. Drake.
8 p.m.—Ford Road—Mr. Everett.
8.30 p.m.—Kempshead Road Hall, Old Kent Road—Miss Menzies. Chair: Miss Balchin.
Thursday, June 17th, 8 p.m.—124 Barking Rd—Mrs. Cyon. Chair: Mrs. Parsons.
8 p.m.—175 Dalston Lane—Social.
8 p.m.—Avondale Square, Old Kent Road—Miss Phillips.
8 p.m.—53 St. Leonard St.—Mrs. Ives.
Friday, June 18th, 3 p.m.—Poplar Women's Hall—Mrs. Tyson. Chair: Mrs. Drake.
8 p.m.—Piggott Street — Miss Lynch.
8 p.m.—Beckton Road—Mrs. Walker.
Sunday, June 20th, 3 p.m.—Hyde Park—Miss Fraser Smith Chair: Mrs. Bouvier
8 p.m.—Bow Women's Hall—Miss Myers and others. Chair: Miss S. Pankhurst.

SUFFRAGE CLUBS. Poplar, 20 Railway St., 7 to 10 p.m., Tuesdays and Fridays.
Bow, 400 Old Ford Road, Fridays and Mondays 7 to 10. p.m.

To reach Old Ford Road take an Old Ford 'bus (No. 8), which goes via the Marble Arch, Oxford St., the Bank and Liverpool St., or book to Old Ford Station on the North London Railway.

MOTHERS AND BABIES.

The season of infantile diarrhœa will soon be upon us, when babies, especially babies of necessitous mothers, who are themselves undernourished, and cannot afford to buy good fresh milk, will be falling dangerously ill. The calls on our four mother and baby centres, for milk, eggs, medicines, and doctoring and nursing care, will become more frequent and more urgent as the summer advances. Will you help by sending us some money for this work?

Will you send us new laid eggs, arrowroot, barley, glaxo or virol?

Will you send us a maternity outfit?

We want:—For baby, four gowns, four barrows, two flannel bands, twelve napkins, three vests, and a cot blanket; for mother, two nightgowns, woollen shawl, three towels, two sheets, and a pair of pillow cases.

COST-PRICE RESTAURANTS.

High prices increase the need for our restaurants. At the same time the high prices make it harder and harder for us to pay our bills. Will you help?

OUR FACTORY.

Always buy your toys and shoes from the E.L.F.S., because we pay a living wage. Latest price lists may be had on application to 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

CLOTHING STALLS.

Our four clothing stalls, where women can buy useful garments for their families for a few pence, are much appreciated. Our stock of clothing is getting low. Will friends send us some more?

Mothers should apply for our new leaflet on baby feeding and infant care.

SHE GAVE HER LIFE FOR WOMEN.

THE PRICE OF LIBERTY.

Written by EMILY WILDING DAVISON, who gave her life for women.

The true suffragette is an epitome of the determination of women to possess their own souls. The words of the Master are eternally true:

"What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul?"

And it is the realisation of this ideal that is moving the most advanced of the feminists to stand out at all costs to-day.

Men, as a sex, have not yet grasped the inevitability of the forging of this last link in the chain of human progress. Ever since history peeps out of the mists of time, the male of the race has made it his prerogative to give or deny the whole world to his partner, but has withheld from her that which is above all temporal things, namely, the possession of a soul, the manifestation of the Godhead within.

Forgetting the Mighty Spirit.

They have beautified and decorated the shrine, but they have kept it empty of the divinity which gave a significance to the paraphernalia of the shrine.

Especially is this error noticeable and blameworthy in the latter days of the early Christian Church, when it was seriously discussed whether women even possessed souls, and sufficient doubt on the subject was raised to condemn the sex from that time onward to an inferior position in the community.

For centuries people have been groping after the dry bones of humanity, forgetting the mighty spirit which alone could make those dry bones live, till early last century the sons of men saw the need of the vivifying breath, and one man after another, one class after another, felt the quick, stirring process, and rose to the wonderous life of civic freedom.

Could the partners of men be untouched by this marvellous awakening? Could women any longer remain dry bones merely, or indeed even as a clod of earth in the valley? Could the newly-aroused and enlightened race owe its origin to an insensate and unintelligent creature?

EMILY WILDING DAVISON.

The Parable of Militancy.

The wonderful Renascence of Freedom has to extend its kindly influence to all! In the New Testament the Master reminded His followers that when the merchant had found the Pearl of Great Price, he sold all that he had in order to buy it. That is the parable of militancy! It is that which the women warriors are doing to-day.

Some are truer warriors than others, but the perfect Amazon is she who will sacrifice all even unto this last, to win the Pearl of Freedom for her sex.

Some of the beauteous pearls that women sell to obtain this freedom which is so little appreciated by those who are born free are the pearls of Friendship, Good Report, Love, and even Life itself, each in itself a priceless boon.

Who will gainsay that Friendship is one of the priceless jewels of life? Did not the Elizabethan philosopher remind us that Friendship doubles our joys and halves our sorrows? Have not the poets sung the inestimable riches of Friendship?

Yet this pearl is sacrificed without a moment's hesitation by the true militant. And, indeed, the sacrifice is inevitable, even as the sun puts out the bright glow of the grate fire. Yet the Lares and Penates are valued gods, even if lesser lights, whilst on the sunniest day a bitter frost may necessitate the worship of the lesser but more comfortable flame.

Thus the sacrifice involves terrible suffering to the militant,—old friends, recently-made friends, they all go, one by one, into the limbo of the burning, fiery furnace—a grim holocaust to Liberty.

An even severer part of the price is the surrender of Good Report, one of the brightest and most precious of the gems in a woman's crown, as anyone can realise who knows how easily her fair fame is sullied.

Men have been able to go forward, through good report and ill report and so low has been the standard of morals for them, that the breath of scandal but seemed to burnish more brightly their good qualities.

But owing to the same double standard the merest whisper of venomous tongues could damn a woman socially and politically, for to be safe she must be like Cæsar's wife.

Hence, to women, reputation is often as dear as life itself. Yet even this jewel has been sacrificed by the militant, for she has felt the truth of the Cavalier poet's song—

"I could not love thee, dear, so much,
Loved I not honour more."

And she has felt in her innermost soul that there was no chance of preserving any "honour" worth the name if she acquiesced in a state of society wherein women's souls and bodies were bought and sold.

"Ye cannot serve God and Mammon." What possibility for those who knew the existing evil to sit down and suffer it in comfort and peace? Better to be Anathema Maranatha for the sake of progress than to sit lapped in ignoble ease in the House of Good Fame! Better that all men should speak evil of her and revile her, fighting the eternal battle of glorious Liberty and Humanity!

But a more soul-rending sacrifice, even than that of friendship and of good report, is demanded of the Militant—that of the blood-tie. "She that loveth mother or father, sister or brother, husband or child, dearer than me cannot be my disciple," saith the terrible voice of Freedom, in accents that rend the very heart in twain.

"Even unto this price."

"Cannot this cup of anguish be spared me," cries the militant aloud in agony, yet immediately, as if in repentance for having so nearly lost the Priceless Pearl, in the words of all strivers after progress, she ejaculates: "Nevertheless I will pay, even unto this price," and in her writhing asks what further demand can be exacted from her.

The glorious and inscrutable Spirit of Liberty has but one further penalty within its power, the surrender of Life itself. It is the supreme consummation of sacrifice, than which none can be higher or greater.

To lay down life for friends, that is glorious, selfless, inspiring! But to re-enact the tragedy of Calvary for generations yet unborn, that is the last consummate sacrifice of the Militant!

"Nor will she shrink from this Nirvana
She will be faithful 'unto this last.'"

[Emily Wilding Davison, B. A., dashed forward and stopped the King's horse on Derby Day, 1913, in order to make the world stop and think of the needs of women and their struggle for enfranchisement. She died as a result of her injuries on June 8th.]

LEAGUE OF RIGHTS.

MEETING to form a Branch

LAKEDALE RD. ROOM,
(PLUMSTEAD).

Friday, June 18th, 8 p.m.

SPEAKERS:
Mrs. DESPARD, Miss SYLVIA PANKHURST, Mr. GEORGE LANSBURY, Mrs. THOMPSON.

ORIGINAL DEFECTIVE.

IS THERE A SCARCITY OF LABOUR?

A few of the many applications that have reached us. Can you find them work?

Girl who has been doing battery work and has also experience in Box Stitching. Is willing to do anything, cleaning or factory work.

Girl who was at machining, but had to give it up as she was not strong enough. Would do machining if nothing else is available.

Woman who has to provide for herself and three children, though her husband is alive. She wants offices to clean, machining, plain sewing, or washing, or in fact anything at all, as she is very much in need of work.

Cook wants work in restaurant.

Cook wants place in domestic service.

Woman, now living in Bermondsey, has had experience in farm work, milking, etc., would like to go back to work in the country.

Girl, daily domestic worker, would like to learn a trade.

Widow, was sausage filler, willing to do agricultural work or anything. Has child to support.

The
Woman's Dreadnought.

Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes,
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can be obtained at the Bookstalls of Messrs. W. H. SMITH and SONS, and Messrs. WILLING.

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Vol. II. No. 13.—Sat. June 12th, 1915.

Bravely and willingly we bear our share of the World's burdens. Why, then, deny us the right to Vote, which would dignify our labour and increase our Power of Service?

EMILY WILDING DAVISON.

The anniversary of the death of our Women's Suffrage Martyr, Emily Wilding Davison, who gave her life for women knowingly and deliberately, should come to us as a call to renewed action, to higher endeavour and a truer consecration to our cause.

For Votes for Women we must still pray and strive and sacrifice without ceasing. With the great issues of peace and war looming before us, and the economic difficulties, in which our women are being crushed between the upper and the nether millstone, more urgently, more vitally, with every day that passes, we need our vote. We ought to be enfranchised now. Let us determine that not one needless day shall pass before the vote is won for every woman in the land.

NATIONAL SERVICE.

There is a cry for National Service. Individualism, the striving of every human unit for his own self-interest in competition with his fellows, has failed.

Its place must be taken by collectivism, which can call on every man and every woman to work together in brotherhood and sisterhood for the common welfare of the entire nation.

Will the proposals that politicians are making secure the ideal so greatly to be desired? Is the Government prepared to bring forward legislation to this end?

We are obliged to say that up to the present moment we see no indication of intention or willingness to set up the sort of National Service that we have indicated.

No, the so-called "National Service" that the Government shows signs of being pressed into adopting is merely a plan for securing forced labour, not for the service of the nation, but for those powerful and wealthy private individuals who are piling up enormous War profits in supplying at great cost and very indifferent capability the nation's needs.

Our present economic system produces a constant human wreckage—men and women, who deteriorate physically and mentally from lack of work or only occasional employment, and the consequent privations they suffer; men and women, who wear out too soon from working too long hours for too little pay; and the children of such people, who come into the world without their fair share of energy, and never get the things that children need.

In time of war, when labour becomes scarce, and the nation is straining every nerve to meet the tremendous calls upon it, the result of this perpetual wastage of that treasure, human energy, is keenly felt. Workers break down under the strain of constant labour, and it is difficult to find on the spur others who can efficiently replace them.

But the Government, and those powerful influences that control the Government, have not learnt the value of the labourers on whom the nation's existence depends. When War broke out, and industry was dislocated, masses of men and women were thrown out of work. At once we urged that they should be employed by the nation in productive industry. In vain, we went on deputations to the Board of Trade and the Cabinet Committee. Nothing was done. Thousands of pounds were spent in giving starvation doles to the people out of the Prince of Wales's Fund. A few hundred women were employed at a miserable maximum wage of 10s. a week at sewing, a few dozens only have since been drafted to agricultural work. The thousands who subsisted on the precarious doles, for which they had to go and explain their need afresh week by week, deteriorated mentally and physically. They were left to rust. Months in which they might have been training passed, the services they might have rendered to the nation were left undone.

To-day there are large numbers of unemployed women all over the country. There is even quite a number of unemployed men. On the North-East Coast, for instance, unemployment is especially acute. 65,700 women have registered for War Service, only 1,250 have obtained work.

No compulsion by the Defence of the Realm Act is needed to secure the services of these women. The harsher compulsion of starvation ensures their desire to be employed. Yet whilst they are needing work we are told that our food supply is endangered by lack of labour, and that there is a scarcity of munitions. It is the duty of the Government to train these people and set them to work.

The Government refuses to shoulder the responsibility of securing for the people a cheap and plentiful food supply. It leaves this important duty to private individuals and allows the high food prices that are undermining the life force of our population, to continue, in the hope that the prospect of making enhanced profits may spur these individuals on to agricultural enterprise.

When the Labour Party appealed to the Government to keep down the prices, Mr. Runciman replied on the Government's behalf that higher prices should be met by an advance in wages, but when workers ask for higher wages, employers frequently refuse them and there is a clamour for forced labour.

Some Labour Members of Parliament, and some of the more advanced Radicals, have raised their voices in protest against industrial compulsion, and the Government, through Sir John Simon, has said that it does not wish to exercise the power of industrial compulsion at present. But there are ominous signs that the exercise of such powers on an extensive scale may not be far distant.

But quite apart from the speeches of Mr. Lloyd George and others, we have already travelled far upon the road to forced labour, for strikers and workers who do not work all the hours expected are now fined by the Courts for breach of contract, and punished under the Defence of the Realm Act.

At the same time sweating by Government contractors is unchecked and magistrates refuse to convict employers who work their people grossly excessive hours.

Are the people of this country prepared to agree that women shall be forcibly dragged to work for Messrs. Vickers at Sheffield for 8s. a week, or forced to remain on the machines of Messrs. Greenwood and Batley of Leeds for 30 hours at a stretch?

Indeed, we hope not!

But what is the way out of this tangle? It is for the Government to become its own maker of munitions, and to nationalise any industry in which it is found that private enterprize cannot cope with the situation.

Let the Government give the present owners of munition factories the chance of employment as managers, at reasonable salaries. If they are efficient, the nation would be glad of their services, and they themselves, should be glad to help the State. If they prove inefficient and are in need, which is most unlikely, they should be sent for aid to the Prince of Wales's fund (like thousands of others) until they can find some work that they can do; though, if they were ordinary people they would be told that, under the circumstances, they were not out of work through the War.

If this were done, and all the employees in the munition factories were paid and treated fairly, the majority would work willingly and conscientiously. There would be no need for compulsion. As for the minority, their physique and character have probably been marred by evil social conditions and as compulsion would almost certainly make them worse, it is better not to try it.

Mr. Will Crooks stated in the House of Commons, when this question was under discussion last Monday, June 7th, that a committee, of which the majority of the members should be representatives of labour, is needed for the settlement of any disputes that may arise.

In organising National Service in nationalized industries, such a committee would be essential, and women should have representation equivalent to the proportion of women amongst the employees.

To those who say that the nationalisation of industry on this basis is impossiby utopian, and that the existing powerful interests cannot be expected to assent to it, we reply that this basis is just; whilst the plan of raising forced labour to supply the needs of private manufacturers is grossly unjust and a scheme to which the workers should never be asked to give their consent.

The fact that women terribly need the protection of the vote in these revolutionary days emerges with startling clearness.

And we must remember that women are becoming every day more essential to all industry.

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

"THE DREADNOUGHT."

We are sure that you want to help us to increase the circulation of the WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT. Therefore, if you will send us the name and address of a friend, who ought to read the DREADNOUGHT but does not, we will send the paper free to your friend for a month. If you will send us 1s. 1d., to pay for a three months' subscription to the DREADNOUGHT, sent by post, we will send the paper free for three months to any other friend whom you would like to become a reader of the paper.

You would like your friends to belong to the movement. Take this opportunity of letting the DREADNOUGHT help you to convert them!

"Since I began to reflect I have been oppressed by the injustice done to women, the constraint put upon their aptitudes and their faculties generally, much to the degradation of the race. I have not studied them more closely than I have men, but with more affection, and deeper interest in their enfranchisement and development, being assured that women of the independent mind are needed for any sensible degree of progess." GEORGE MEREDITH.

"WOMEN'S TRIUMPH IN DENMARK."

We are most pleased to announce that on June, the 5th, King Christian IX. signed the Bill granting Votes to Women in Denmark, on exactly the same conditions as men. Henceforth all the electorate privileges of sex, money, and land are done away with. Women will have exactly the same right to vote and to be elected as Members of both legislative Houses.

The new Suffrage Bill, which passed the Lower House, or Folkething as it is called, unanimously, will come into force in a year.

To celebrate this great triumph, the women of Denmark, led by the women students of the University, marched in a long procession to the Amelienborg Palace to thank the King, and then to both Houses of Parliament to thank them for the sympathy and understanding with which they had treated the interests of women.

The *Times* states that at the present time Danish men may vote at 30 years of age. The new Act, which admits women to the franchise on equal terms, will gradually reduce the qualifying age until in the course of five elections both sexes may vote at 25.

BABIES DYING.

The Registrar General's returns reveal the terrible fact that for the past 13 weeks 200 children a week have been dying in London in excess of the numbers last year. The birth rate has fallen at the same time by 400 to 500 a week.

The increased infant mortality is general throughout the country. It is largely due to the high prices which are bringing distress to countless homes.

NO DISTRESS.

Instructions have been issued from the Board of Education that expenses are to be cut down as much as possible, so the first thing that is done is to stop feeding the children, on the plea that there is no distress. At one large school in East London only two children are receiving meals instead of 50 a short time ago. If there is no distress, how is it that every day women who have registered at the Labour Exchanges and are told there is no chance of their getting work, come to us begging for work; and within the last week the number of children who come to our Cost-Price Restaurants has increased over 100 per cent.? As we only charge them 1d. a head, we cannot make these restaurants self-supporting, and as the parents cannot afford more, we cannot increase the price we charge. Who will help to feed the children by sending us a subscription to the "Penny Carltons?" Gifts of jugs, spoons and forks will be most acceptable.

In the case of War Babies, as in that of other illegitimate and legitimate children, it is usually best to keep the mother and child together. It is hard either for a woman or a man to play the part both of mother and father where the income is small, and the general under-payment of women always makes the woman's income almost invariably smallest. Those who want to help some woman in her struggle to maintain her child can effectively do so by subscribing £1 a week to the E.L.F.S. If they will do so, we shall be able to pay a minimum wage of £1 a week to the woman to work in our Toy Factory, Nursery, or Restaurants. Out of her wages she will be able to pay 1s. 6d. a week to have her child cared for in our nursery.

The money obtained through the sale of work made in our factory is devoted to placing it on a self-supporting basis, in order that it may be run on co-operative lines.

Mexico is threatened with serious famine, because the men spend their time in fighting instead of farming. Already the corn shortage is 39,370,000 bushels.

European nations may soon have to face the same danger from the same cause!

THE PRICE OF WHEAT.

It is said that the cost of wheat will now fall for a time, and with it the cost of our bread. This is not because the holders of wheat have taken pity on the poor, and decided to content themselves with reasonable profits, in order that the people may not suffer. It is, as the *Times* tells us, because France, Italy and the Belgian Committee have now bought all they need, and so have withdrawn their competition, and because a big crop of wheat is shortly expected from the United States. Therefore, holders of old crops can no longer hope to get bigger prices by refusing to sell, and they are now beginning to offer their wheat at lower prices, and are bidding with their neighbours to secure the biggest orders. So prices are coming down. The Indian Government has reduced the price of its wheat from 67s. to 61s. 9d. a quarter, and some private persons are selling at 60s. It is said that the Indian Government has 2,000,000 tons of wheat which it is able to sell to this country. If the wheat were put on the market at normal prices we should be able to buy our bread and flour at pre-war prices, for prices would fall all round.

Sir John Spear asked the President of the Board of Trade if any steps have been taken by the Government whereby, on the opening of the Dardanelles, Russian wheat will be secured for the direct use of the consumers in this country without the interference of any ring or combination, and if not, will he consider the advisability of taking action in the matter?

The Parliamentary Secretary of the Board of Agriculture (Mr. Acland) said: "The Government do not propose to acquire control of wheat from Russia, and they see no reason to anticipate the formation of a ring to deal with it."

HURRY UP!

In the House of Commons, on June 3rd, Mr. Stuart-Wortley asked the Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Agriculture whether the Government would prohibit the killing of calves and lambs, and the export of feeding-stuffs, to prevent a shortage of food in this country.

Mr. Acland replied that the Board were "considering."

DISTRESS IN MANXLAND.

Although many Manx people are suffering through the War, the *Manchester Guardian* states that the farmers have entered on "an era of prosperity." The Isle of Man Farmers' Combination has made a higher profit than ever before, and has declared a dividend of 20 per cent.

It is too bad to have made this increased dividend at the expense of the very large section of the Manx population, who have suffered through the holiday visitors staying away because of the War! Is this patriotism? Think!

The *Ramsay Courier* reports that the chairman of the directors, Mr. J. J. Christian, said, at the annual meeting, that their "prosperity might be accounted for by the unfortunate war," but protested that they had "not been making excessive profits such as some were making in England." This is undoubtedly true, but the fact remains that the Manx Farmers' Combine has made more than it has ever made before. The Island, as a whole, is plunged in distress, and a deputation from the Manx Legislature has been over to the Home Office in London to ask for aid.

The women are the greatest sufferers. The only scheme that appears to have been established to help them is a Needlework Guild, which gives out not more than two shirts a week at 1s. 3d. each, so that a woman cannot earn more than 2s. 6d. a week.

Whilst the people are being allowed to rust and starve, the prospect of a food scarcity in the British Isles is growing.

Yet the only suggestion which the Manx papers report as being discussed between the Home Office and the representatives of the Tynwald Court appear to have been for housing enemy aliens on the island. This suggestion, if we may take as a criterion the speeches made at a meeting of the women of the Isle of Man Boarding-House Keepers' League in Ramsay, appears most terrifying to the inhabitants.

Will the Manx Legislature set its unemployed women to work at poultry keeping, or some other form of productive employment? The British Government ought to help them in such a project.

We take the following passages from the *New Witness*. They seem to us strikingly apt:—"The continued increase in the price of food, the extortionate profits made by millers, meat importers and provision firms generally, have called forth little protest in the columns of the Press. For the most part, the people are instructed not to eat so much, and women are earnestly implored to consider the lentil as an article of diet, and to remember that nutriment can be extracted from potato skins. Vegetarianism is a fad which can only be practised by people with time or money, and it is as ridiculous as it is impertinent to suggest that the mother of a family of children, who has to get in two days' charing a week to help up the family exchequer, should spend hours on the concoction of sorel soup or a nuttose omelette. We are continually told that the workers of this country have never been so prosperous, and that the increase of their wages is out of all proportion to the increase in the cost of food. This is, of course, an entire misstatement, but even allowing that a proportion of workers are in receipt of higher wages than they have received for some time past, there still remains a residuum of ill-paid labour unaffected by the War. The widows of Hoxton still work at box-making and kindred trades for a miserable pittance. Munition work does not affect them; they have still to toil long hours for a few pence to keep themselves and their children, and the enormous price charged for food means that their diet falls nearly to starvation level. To suggest that a woman should go home from the blouse factory and make a hearty meal off an artichoke, which she has no means of cooking or serving in the manner suggested by certain papers, is an insult which even muddle-headedness does not excuse. If the Press were to attack the men who have made and are making vast fortunes out of the war and from the necessities of the poor they would assist the diet of the people more effectually than by long and futile vegetarian menus."

FOOD PRICES IN GERMANY.

The *Labour Woman* for June contains an article on the high cost of living in Germany, in which it is stated that on March 10th Frau Zietz, a member of the executive of the Social Democratic Party, sent to the Reichstag a petition in the name of the socialist women of Germany, in which the following passages occur:—

"Famine prices are charged in particular for potatoes, bread, flour and meat, and, unhappily, also for other important means of nourishment.

"Since the rations of bread and flour per head have been fixed, potatoes have been more than ever the chief food of great masses of the population. But their enhanced price, and the absolute lack of potatoes in many places, brings the direst privation upon the poorer population. The consumption of meat has also shrunk to a minimum among these classes, and it is impossible to make satisfactory substitutes by increasing the consumption of milk, cheese, pulse, oatmeal, barley, rice, sugar, and other things, as these also are scarce or enhanced in price.

"It is true that all classes of the population are ready to make the greatest sacrifices for the interests of the whole; they are not only ready and willing to practice the greatest economy, but voluntarily undergo many privations which are required owing to the scarcity of certain articles. But for this very reason they feel all the more bitterly the fact that certain groups of interests have raised prices beyond all measure, and thereby intensified the distress for purposes of gain. If some remedy is not soon found, it is to be feared that affairs will develop in a serious way.

"Therefore the Social Democratic women request the Reichstag immediately to fix lower maximum prices of flour, bread, potatoes, and meat, promptly to take control of the supplies of meat and potatoes, and also to fix moderate maximum prices for all foods, which owing to the dislocation of supplies, are in great demand and subject to an increase in cost.

"The Social Democratic women ask that the Reichstag will consider their words and fulfil their request in the interests of the poorer classes and of the country as a whole."

KHAKI IS SUCH HEAVY WORK.

The following interesting letter appeared in the *Bradford Daily Argus*:

How is it that some mills have paid war bonus and others not? and in most cases the mills paying it have no khaki, and it is khaki that is such heavy work. If you can earn a wage you have more to pay out to keep yourself in health, and as for insurance, the doctors will not give right things that are needed to keep young women up, such as cod liver oil and malt extract, etc. So you must buy these things yourself, and in most cases these have had to be bought every week since khaki started.

All pieces weigh 61 lbs. to 77 lbs., and when you have to lift a good few off and on your tables a day, you are getting a little tired before 5.30. Where I am working we are earning good wages, but have to work or we should have a spinner's wage. I think it is about time all burlers and spinners woke up, both in mills and commission places. My advice is "join a union and have someone to back us out." The millmaster says it must be very hard work to have to lift the khaki; cannot a man lift it? But no man is set on, so therefore the young women must lift on continually.

Then young women are told they ought to do something for the soldiers and the war. I for one think we are doing enough, while the money is going to pay for German officers, prisoners of war, playing golf, etc. I think burlers and menders and weavers have a right to a war bonus.

BURLER AND MENDER.

AN EXHIBITION.

Mrs. Merrick, of Withington, near Manchester, recently organised a week's exhibition of painting and sculpture of the work of four young artists of the locality. The entrance fees to the exhibition Mrs. Merrick very kindly devoted to the E.L.F.S. Mothers' and Babies' Fund. Mr. Redwood Anderson generously gave copies of his poem, "The Mask," to sell for the funds, and a collecting box for the E.L.F.S., with an explanatory notice, and an appeal for our funds were a prominent feature of the exhibition.

Many thanks to Mrs. Merrick and the artists. This is an idea that other friends might copy.

We are told that all over London the laundries are busy on the new masks, which are used to protect soldiers against the poison gas used by the Germans.

The women's work is to impregnate the masks with hypo-phosphite of soda, which is the neutralising agent for the poison gas.

The work is of a most unpleasant nature, and the chemical has a destructive effect on anything which comes in contact with it.

The women are praised for their great zeal and speed. We only wish we could feel confident that they are being properly paid, and that adequate safeguards are provided to save them from injury in their dangerous work.

WOMEN POSTAL SERVANTS.

A writer in the *Manchester Daily Dispatch* states that women employed in the Postal Service are getting from 12s. to 16s. per week less. The Postal and Telegraph Clerks' Association have taken up this grave injustice, but as yet without avail.

I should also like to correct you regarding the scope of the women not having been extended. It is a positive fact that the Telegraph Department has introduced a class of Typist at the wage of from 13s. to 22s. per week to replace men serving King and country, and the fact that the Postmaster-General will not promise to abolish this type of underpaid labour at the conclusion of the War, is viewed with great misgiving by the staff, which is seriously considering the measures to take concerning this violation of trade-union rights.

The *Civilian*—the Civil Service organ—says: "What the men Clerks in the Civil Service have got to do is to wake up and make sure that the departments are not flooded by women clerks at round about £1 a week. If this happens neither the men nor the women already at work will find it easy to keep up their present standards.

"When the Royal Commission commenced its sittings in the spring of 1912, the different grades of men who intended to lay their representations before the Commissioners found, on taking stock of the general situation, that it would be unwise to leave out of count the question of the conditions under which female labour was employed in the Civil Service. . . .

"If the recommendation in favour of the extension of women's labour is to be adopted, then the recommendation of equal pay for equal work must also be adopted. Otherwise we do not doubt that many men will come back from the Army to find that their work is being done by women at a much cheaper rate, and while, of course, their situations as individuals will not be jeopardised, the whole standard of pay for clerical work will be thereby lowered. . . . The men will be told that women can do their work for less money, and the women will be told that they may continue to work for a small wage as they did during the War. We know from experience that the Treasury can make the best of a position of that kind, and it is therefore all the more important that the men and women already in the Service, while eager to co-operate fully in any steps that may be helpful in increasing their value to the country as individuals and as a body, should be insistent that nothing is done by chance and without a proper regard for future developments."

I send 4s. 4d. for One Year's Subscription to the "Woman's Dreadnought," sent by post.

Name .....

Address .....

Advertisements in the "Dreadnought" cost 5s. an inch; 1s. for 12 words, ½d. a word after.

SOLDIERS' & SAILORS' DEPENDENTS.

Is there any possibility of compelling the Government to pay the unfortunate dependents of our soldiers and sailors at least a pound a week? There is apparently no disposition towards economy in the conduct of the War *except at the expense of the unfortunate women and children, and unemployed.* If money can be poured out like water in every other department of national life, why should not these most deserving victims of the War, commercial as well as international, receive at least the £1 minimum? Would it not be possible to organise a great newspaper campaign to demand this elementary right? As so many non-Socialist papers are committed to the righteousness of the demand *in theory*, surely with a little well directed pressure from Trade Unionists, etc., they might be induced to insist on the urgent need for action. There would be no lack of recruits if men had any guarantee that their dependents would be entitled to at least £1 per week. What has become of the Labour M.Ps.?

Yours truly—A WOMAN WORKER.

DISTRICT REPORTS.

BOW.

400 OLD FORD ROAD, BOW.

The E.L.F.S. meeting in Hyde Park on Sunday was larger than any other, recruiting meetings included. Our paper found a ready sale. Thanks to speakers and sellers. Large and interested audience at Ford Road, Wednesday, several papers sold. Mrs. Farrall has promised to take charge of the stall for an hour on Saturday. Who will follow her good example? Miss Bailey will be glad of more promises of help with this useful propaganda work. Thanks to those who have promised to chalk Sunday meetings regularly, but more volunteers are required. Bow and Bromley members should all attend Sunday meetings and bring unconverted friends. Miss Sylvia Pankhurst will speak at the afternoon meeting on Tuesday, June 15th. Those who find it impossible to attend Sunday meetings should turn up in full force on Tuesday at 3.

Dreadnought sales, week ending June 4th—617. Miss O'Brien 175, Mrs. O'Connell 96, Mrs. Crabb 86, Mrs. Moor 76, Mrs. Farrall 40, Mrs. Payne 33.

The sales at the stall were 50 this week. Bow is well on the way to selling its weekly 1,000. Other branches, wake up!

POPLAR.

THE WOMEN'S HALL, 20 RAILWAY ST.
Organiser: MRS. DRAKE.

Miss Mary Richardson has kindly consented to take a speaker's class on Wednesday evenings, at 8 p.m., commencing June 9th. Members must come along to this and do their best. You do not know what you can do until you try, and if after trying you do not succeed, you will at least have the satisfaction of having done your best.

Three good open air meetings held this week at Sturry St., Chrisp St., and Piggott St. Mrs. Schlette spoke indoors on Tuesday evening and Miss Lynch on Friday afternoon.

The Monday evening meeting usually held at Sturry St. will be held at the Dock Gates in future, now that the evenings are lighter.

Subscriptions for May amounted to 14s.

We *must* have a good attendance on Sunday, June 13th, at this hall, when Miss S. Pankhurst and Mrs. Cyon will be the speakers. We shall be *sure* to have it, if members let their friends know, as a good many people said they would have come if they had known about the last meeting, four weeks ago. Volunteers needed for canvassing, paper selling, chalking, and distributing. *Dreadnoughts* sold week ending June 5th—124. Mrs. West distributed 500.

Collections—Mrs. Bird 11s. 8½d.; self-denial—Mrs. West 2s. 7½d., Mrs. Clarke 11¾d.

POPLAR DISTRESS WORK.

At our Poplar Centre more than 500 babies have received the attention of nurse and doctor. All these babies receive a pint of milk daily, until they no longer need it. They are visited by the nurse regularly, and weighed. If they require special nourishment such as Glaxo or Virol, we give it to them, or when mother can pay part, we assist her with the other part.

When the babies are born, the mothers cannot always get all the clothes they require. That is where we assist again—lending them what they are especially in need of, and obtaining for them invalid dinners.

There is also a great deal of ordinary sickness, which requires nourishment that cannot be purchased out of the insurance money (10s. weekly) that the Government allows. Two or three weeks invalid's diet makes a man fit for work again. Children who are not in the best of health are sent to Convalescent homes.

In our Cost-Price Restaurant, nearly 1,000 dinners are served weekly. The mothers who have to go to work are especially grateful for this, as mothers like the children to be fed regularly.

We have a sale of clothes on Mondays at 6.30 p.m., and shall be grateful for subscriptions to keep all this work going.

SOUTH WEST HAM.

Centre for Tidal Basin and Custom House—55 Fife Road, Tidal Basin.
Hon. Sec.—MRS. DAISY PARSONS, 94 Ravenscroft Road.

The meeting was on Monday addressed by Miss Manicom and Mrs. Walker, and we were pleased to see our Custom House members at this pitch. Mrs. Davies gave an interesting speech on Thursday, subject: "The Child." We are pleased Mrs. Mears is giving an hour or two on Friday canvassing. Who else will follow her example? Two friends and their mother thanked for help at Milk Centre. Have any members any suggestions for work during the fine weather? There were two dozen papers sold at Beckton Road on Friday, when Mrs. Walker again spoke. We have a good many old *Dreadnoughts* at Fife Road. Who will distribute 25 during the coming week? Don't forget General meeting is fixed for Monday, June 21st, at 400 Old Ford Road.

HACKNEY.

Offices: 175 DALSTON LANE (Facing Hackney Downs Station).
Papers can be obtained at this address at any time.

Will everyone please keep June 17th open, when we are going to have a special rally of Hackney members? Miss Pankhurst will be with us. Those members who wish to be present, should please give in their names at once, as our room will only hold a limited number.

Everyone enjoyed Mrs. Moore's and Mrs. Walker's speeches on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

Several Hackney members visited our Nursery in Old Ford Road last Tuesday, and they were much interested in what they saw. If any other members would like to visit the nursery at a future date, would they please give in their names?

We are going to form a committee to carry on the work at the end of the week, so please make a special effort to attend on Thursday, June 17th.

Papers sold, 49. Distributed 50.

SOUTH-EAST LONDON E.L.F.S.

Hon. Secretary: Miss BALCHIN, 39 Radnor Street, Peckham.

The Secretary would like to call the attention of readers of the *Dreadnought* in South-East London to the fact that the above is not a "local" branch in the usually accepted sense of the word; as it at present stands for the whole of S.E. London, and is represented by members in Bermondsey, Camberwell, East Dulwich, Peckham and Walworth. The Secretary asks for readers from the above-mentioned and other districts to become members of the branch, with a view to extending the work of the E.L.F.S., working up meetings, increasing the sale of the paper, etc., in this part of London. Thanks are due to Mrs. Bailey for canvassing for Kempshead Road meeting; who else will help? Speaker at Kempshead Road next Wednesday will be Miss Menzies, and open air meeting will be as usual at Avondale Square, on Tuesday evening at 8 o'clock.

The Joint Social Committee of the E.L.F.S. and R.S.P.U. will hold another Babies' Fund Social at the Women's Hall, Old Ford Road, on July 10th, at 8 p.m. Tickets, 3d. each, from 400 Old Ford Road, Messrs. W. Whitelock, 76 Jodrell Road, J. Bonarius, 89 Wyke Road, and G. Stone, 4 Eglinton Road.

Watney's brewery has increased its dividend from 5 per cent. in 1913-14 to 11 per cent. in 1914-15. James Dewar's brewery has increased its dividend from 10 to 12 per cent. this year.

These brewers have successfully passed the increased beer taxes on to the consuming public.

Who will help to increase the DREADNOUGHT Fund—by sending a subscription of 4s. 4d. for one copy post free for a year, or by sending a donation to the fund? A New Zealand reader of our paper writes:—"I appreciate more than I can express the good work you are doing amongst the poor in London. Amidst it all I know you are working with a good hope—an object in view—the emancipation of women all round. I feel it as I read the DREADNOUGHT.

A man who has been out of employment for months sends us 6s. 6d. for the help of the poor children especially, and hopes to send "a little with some regularity." Who will follow his example?

GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED.

GENERAL FUND.—Misses Gliksten (Self Denial fund) 1.19.0, Profits of Joint Social—R.S.P.U. & E.L.F.S., 1.15.7, Mrs. J. C. Miller 1.0.0, Mrs. H. Armes 10.0, Miss E. Gore Browne (5.0 monthly) 10.0, Mrs. Kirkwood 5.0, per Mrs. Payne—Bow members weekly subscriptions for May 14.7, Collection Women's Hall 3.6, Mrs. Duval 3.0, Collections Hackney 1.10, Collection Canning Town 1.4½, Mrs. Clarke (Self Denial fund) 0.11¾, Collection Poplar 0.5.

FOR MILK AND GENERAL DISTRESS.—Colonel Aberigh Mackay 5.0.0, Lady Steel 4.15.8, Mrs. Merrick 4.7.8, J. Leakey, Esq. 2.0.0, Mr. & Mrs. Sadd Brown (monthly) 2.0.0, Misses Gliksten (1.0.0 monthly) 2.0.0, Mrs. Bailey Weaver (monthly) 2.0.0, Mrs. Singer (1.5.0 monthly) 1.6.8, A gentleman in Canada, per the *Morning Post* 1.0.6, Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett (monthly) 1.0.0, Miss G. L. Smyth 1.0.0, Miss D. Eliot 1.0.0, Laurence Housman, Esq 1.0.0, T. Stenhouse, Esq 11.1, Miss E. Gore Browne 10.6, Mrs. Durrant (monthly) 10.0, J. H. Marriot, Esq 10.0, G A. Weller, Esq 10.0, — Harbott, Esq 10.0, Miss E. Douglas 10.0, Miss I. V. Yeoman (weekly) 10.0, Anon—Stroud Green (weekly) 10.0, Miss E. Lowy (monthly) 10.0, Misses W. Woodcock & D. H. Jones 10.0, Miss Margot Douglas 6.1, West Adams 6.0, Mrs. Judson 5.8, Mrs. Dickenson 5.6, H. Groves, Esq 5.0, F. W. Thorrington, Esq 5.0, E. Broomfield, Esq 5.0, Misses Bellamy and Saunderson (monthly) 5.0, Mr. & Mrs. Reynolds 5.0, Miss D. C. Empson (monthly) 5.0, Miss C. I. Bagster 5.0, Mrs. Payne 5.0, Mrs. Goulden 5.0, Misses Barrowman (monthly) 5.0, Mrs. J. L. Lansbury 5.0, Miss M. Renthe 4.0, Mrs. Powles (1.0 weekly) 4.0, Nurse Richards 3.9, Miss Crabb 3.6, G.S.P.—Redland 2.7½, D. Wilkie, Esq (monthly) 2.6, Mr. and Mrs. Ewen 2.6, Anon 2.0, Miss I. Jones (weekly) 2.0, Miss Cumnor 0.6

COLLECTIONS.—Mrs. Bird 11.8½, Mrs. Crabb 7.1, A member 6.7½, Miss Gallop 5.0, Mrs. Mears 4.7½, Ruby Crabb 3.10½, Mrs. Page 2.6, Miss Gatward 1.5, Baby Garroway 6½d.

CLOTHES.—Miss M. H. Eyre, Miss Lily McDonnell (and doll), Mrs. Masais, Cardiff W.S.P.U. Member, Miss G. M. Robinson, Nurse Godwin.

EGGS.—Mrs. Powell.

MATERNITY OUTFIT.—Mrs Toulmin Smith

SHOES.—Mrs. Mary Stockwell.

GLAXO.—Messrs. Glaxo, Ltd. (12 tins).

GROCERIES.—Miss Batson.

AMERICAN NEWS.

At Terre Haute, in the State of Indianapolis, U.S.A., Mayor Roberts and forty other office holders and politicians were convicted in the Federal Court of gross election frauds, and are now in prison. The evidence which convicted these men, was supplied by the Women's Council of Terre Haute, which represents 3,000 women. The Women's Council afterwards sent a resolution to the City Council making suggestions as to the form of election of the new mayor, and urging that he must be a man of "unimpeachable character." The resolution was received with cries of "tear it up," "throw it in the waste basket," and "ladies should keep their places." The president of the Council said: "If this Council hasn't brains enough, we won't go to skirts to get them." Eventually the Council decided to leave the resolution "dead and dormant," and even refused to insert in the minutes that they had received it.

This hardly reads like American news, for usually we hear of nothing but courtesy and respect towards the views and wishes of women's organisations. But we must remember that this passage of arms that has taken place at Terre Haute is between unenfranchised women on the one hand, and the old-fashioned American politician who used to flourish, but is now rapidly being exterminated, on the other. In the Votes for Women States, such an occurrence would have been impossible.

Alice Stone Blackwell, editor of the *Woman's Journal* of America, comments on the sinking of the Lusitania as follows:—

It was a bit of tragic irony that the Lusitania should have been sent to the bottom just before "Mothers' Day." Like a lightning flash in a black, stormy sky, illuminating and throwing into strong relief all the warring elements, it shows more vividly than any words could do the essential wickedness of the war game. It is an object lesson that should drive home to people's minds and hearts the need of having the mother half of the world represented in the councils of the nations.

The opponents of equal rights try to show that things are going along pretty well in this world, and that there is no need of urging a change. The spectacle presented just now by almost the whole of Europe is a lurid contradiction of this milk and rose-water theory. In this abominable war, where all the resources of modern science and invention are perverted from the service of humanity to its destruction, there has been no lack of the qualities that are regarded as pre-eminently masculine—force, aggressiveness, intellectual power. There is a conspicuous lack of conscience and humanity; and these are qualities in which women are strong. If we want this to be the last war, and not the first in a long series of fresh conflicts, horrible beyond any that the world has yet known, let us work with our utmost earnestness to bring in a new régime, in which for the first time the element of mother love shall have its due voice and vote in the world's affairs. This year, the ever-growing number of ministers who preach for equal suffrage on "Mothers' Day" had a splendid text made to their hand.

Mrs. Raymond Robins, the president of the Women's Trade Union League of America, testifies that the Vote has been exceedingly helpful to the working women of Chicago, where she lives.

She instances the conversion of Hubert Killens, a Member of the Illinois State Legislature, who voted against the Women's Eight Hour Bill. Soon after his vote on this measure, he stood for election as Alderman of the 29th Ward of Chicago. The working women sent round a wagon adorned with placards against him—"A vote for Hubert Killens means a long work-day for women."

WOMEN'S HALL

400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

PUBLIC MEETING,
Sunday, June 13th, 8 p.m.

Mrs. DAVIES
Miss FRASER SMITH
Mrs. WALKER

Songs: Miss WINIFRED HELSBY

Admission Free

WOMEN'S HALL

20 Railway Street, Poplar.

Sunday, June 13th, 8 p.m.

Mrs. CYON
Mrs. DRAKE
Mrs. BOUVIER

Hubert Killens was defeated and is now an advocate of the eight hour law. In comparison, Mrs. Robins recalls what happened in regard to the terrible "Triangle" factory fire in New York, where 142 women and girls lost their lives because their employers broke the law by keeping the factory doors locked. Public opinion was much stirred, a great mourning procession and many protest demonstrations took place. But a year later the doors of the Triangle factory were again found locked and the New York Municipal Court imposed a fine of only 20 dollars (£5).

Mrs. Robins says that six weeks after the passage of Votes for Women, Chicago instituted the best milk regulations ever adopted in any city.

A National Clean Milk Society has been formed for the purpose of supplying pure milk to the poorest mothers in London.

The society will strive to improve conditions at dairy farms, in railway transportation, and at milk shops, as well as in distribution, and the care of milk in the home. The "grading" of milk, as in America, will be a new and important development.

Sir Thomas Barlow, Sir Bertrand Dawson, Sir W. Osler, Sir Frederick Treves, Lord Chichester, Lord Clinton and Mrs. H. J. Tennant (formerly Superintending Inspector of Factories) are on the council.

A similar committee have organised a supply of clean milk in New York, and by their efforts are said to have reduced the mortality of children under one year from 139 per 1,000 in 1909 to 101 per 1,000 in 1913, saving, approximately, 4,500 lives a year.

The *Daily Mail* published a report of the conditions in a French armament factory the other day, and quoted a French woman worker there as having said that her wages did not matter provided she could do "her bit."

We suppose it was something like this that made Messrs. Vickers wish to import French women to work in their Barrow factory.

EMILY WILDING DAVISON.

We love the sun, in the high heavens riding,
The day from night and night from day dividing;
We love the moon, up the steep ways ascending,
To little furry folk her lantern lending.
We love the starry blossom June is flinging
When this old earth seems young again and singing—
With woodland birds a-fluting!

We love the talk of friends when wits are clashing,
When mind on mind, like fencer's foil, is flashing;
We love the fight,—to see the foemen flying,
We love the combat, wit with force a-vying!
All these *you* loved, yet in your royal giving
O gallant comrade, these renounced, and living,
Went out, dread Death saluting.

GERTRUDE E. M. VAUGHAN.

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